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**American Repertory Theater Announces
Casting for the Second Production of the 2013/14 Season:
THE HEART OF ROBIN HOOD
Written by David Farr and Directed by Gisli Örn Gardarsson**

Cambridge, MA — The American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, under the Artistic Direction of Diane Paulus, is pleased to present the second production of the 2013/14 Season: **David Farr's *The Heart of Robin Hood***, directed by **Gisli Örn Gardarsson**, to begin performances Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at the Loeb Drama Center, Cambridge. The production runs through Sunday, January 19, 2014, and will be available for press viewing from Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30pm. Press night invitations will be sent out in mid-November.

"... a family show with a difference....a fusion of Shakespearean allusion and Icelandic athleticism. It is staged with such verve and invention that it is impossible not to surrender to it."— *The Guardian*

"...a pleasing prequel to a much-loved tale, in which the hero is rescued from a life of crime by the love of a good woman." — *The Telegraph*

The notorious Robin Hood and his band of outlaws steal from the rich, but they do not share their spoils with the poor and are unloved by the people, who must also pay unfair taxes to the evil Prince John as he plots to steal his brother's crown. In this time of chaos and fear, it is down to Marion to boldly protect the poor and convince Robin that he must listen to his heart if they are to save the country. This spectacular new rendition of a great English legend was written by the Royal Shakespeare Company's Associate Director David Farr and directed by Icelandic director Gisli Örn Gardarsson. ***The Heart of Robin Hood*** played at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, during its 2011/12 season.

The cast includes **Jordan Dean** (*Mamma Mia* on Broadway, *As You Like It* at NY Shakespeare Festival, and Kenneth Branagh's *Macbeth* at the Manchester International Festival) as Robin and **Christina Bennett Lind** (*Ride the Tiger*, Long Wharf Theatre; Bianca Montgomery in ABC's "All My Children") as Marion. The are joined by **Claire Candela** (*Once* on Broadway) and **Andrew Cekala** (*Pippin* and *Marie Antoinette* at A.R.T.) and as the children Sarah and Jethro Summers, **Jeremy Crawford** (*Disney's Alladin* and *Godspell* at West Virginia Public Theatre) as Little John, **Zachary Eisenstat** (*Superior Donuts* at Lyric Stage, *The Donkey Show* at A.R.T.) as Will Scarlett, **Andy Grotelueschen** (*Into the Woods* at McCarter Theatre, "Elementary") as Much, **Laura Sheehy** (*Cabaret* on Broadway and *Balm in Gilead* at Atlantic Theatre) as Plug, **Christopher Sieber** (*Shrek* on Broadway, *Spamalot* on Broadway and West End, Tony nomination) as Pierre, **Louis Tucci** (*If You Could See: The Alice Austen Story* at Sundog Theatre, "War of the Worlds") as Makepeace, **Damian Young** (*All My Sons* on Broadway, "Person of Interest") as Prince John, and **Katrina Yaukey** (*War Horse* and *Cabaret* on Broadway and tour) as Alice.

Set design is by **Borkur Jonsson**, costume design by **Emma Ryott**, lighting design by **Bjorn Helgason**, and sound design by **Jonathan Deans**. **Selma Björnsdóttir** is the Associate Director and in charge of Aerial Creation.

David Farr is the Associate Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC). He is co writer of the RSC's *Night of the Soul*, and *Metamorphosis* (Lyric Hammersmith), *The UN Inspector* (National Theatre), *The Nativity* (Young Vic), and *Elton John's Glasses* (West End). He directed *Twelfth Night*, *A Winter's Tale*, *The Tempest*, *King Lear*, and *The Homecoming* for the RSC, and adapted and directed numerous productions for theaters throughout England. He also held the posts of Artistic Director of the Gate Theatre, London; the Bristol Old Vic; and The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. His film and television credits include *Hannah* for Focus Features, and the BBC Series *Spooks*.

Gisli Örn Gardarsson was recently seen in *Metamorphosis* at Arts Emerson, which he co-adapted and co-directed with David Farr, and also played the lead role of Gregor. The Icelandic born actor/writer/director is a founder of the internationally acclaimed theatre and film company Vesturport. Founded in 2001, the company has performed in most major theatre venues around the world. He directed the critically acclaimed *Romeo and Juliet* (playing Romeo) at the Reykjavik City Theatre, which transferred to the Young Vic Theatre and eventually to the West End in London in 2004. He has collaborated with musicians Nick Cave and Warren Ellis on *Woyzeck* (Barbican, London), *Metamorphosis* (Lyric Hammersmith, London), and *Faust*. His acting credits in England also include *A Matter of Life and Death* at the National Theatre and Don John in an adaptation of *Don Juan* at the Royal Shakespeare Company. Gardarsson has produced five feature films, *Parents*, *Brim*, *Country Wedding* (co-producer), *King's Road* (co-producer), and *Children*, which he co-wrote and starred in, and for which he was awarded the European Film Award Shooting Star at the Berlin Film Festival in 2007.

ABOUT THE A.R.T.:

The **American Repertory Theater** (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of theater. Winner of the 2012 and 2013 Tony Awards for Best Musical Revival for its productions of ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*** and ***Pippin***, the A.R.T. is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work in Cambridge and beyond. The A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. In 2008, Diane Paulus became the A.R.T.'s Artistic Director. The A.R.T. is the recipient of numerous other awards including the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theater, the Pulitzer Prize, and many Elliot Norton and I.R.N.E. Awards. Its recent premiere production of ***Death and The Powers: The Robots' Opera*** was a 2012 Pulitzer Prize finalist.

During its 33-year history, the A.R.T. has welcomed many major American and international theater artists, presenting a diverse repertoire that includes premieres of American plays, bold reinterpretations of classical texts and provocative new music theater productions. The A.R.T. has performed throughout the U.S. and worldwide in 21 cities in 16 countries on four continents. The A.R.T. is also a training ground for young artists. The Theater's artistic staff teaches undergraduate classes in acting, directing, dramatic literature, dramaturgy, voice, and design at Harvard University. In 1987, the A.R.T. founded the Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University. A two-year, five-semester M.F.A. graduate program that operates in conjunction with the Moscow Art Theater School, the Institute provides world-class professional training in acting, dramaturgy and voice.

Since becoming Artistic Director, Tony Award-winning director **Diane Paulus** has enhanced the A.R.T.'s core mission to expand the boundaries of theater by continuing to transform the ways in which work is developed, programmed, produced and contextualized, always including the audience as a partner. Productions such as ***Pippin***, ***The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess***, ***Sleep No More***, ***The Donkey Show***, ***Gatz***, ***The Blue Flower***, and ***Prometheus Bound*** have engaged audiences in unique theatrical experiences. The A.R.T.'s club theater, OBERON, which Paulus calls a second stage for the 21st century, has become an incubator for local and emerging artists, and has also attracted national attention for its innovative programming model.

The Loeb Drama Center, located at 64 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge, is fully accessible. ASL interpreted and audio described performances are available at select productions. Visit americanrepertorytheater.org/access for more information.

For subscriptions, tickets to ***The Heart of Robin Hood*** and further information call 617-547-8300 or visit us on line at americanrepertorytheater.org

